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## **Bills by Sen. Rodríguez to strengthen protective orders and penalize predators voted out of Senate**

*Senate Bills 147 and 630 would enhance penalties for violating protective orders and bond conditions in family violence and assault cases*

AUSTIN - The Texas Senate Wednesday passed Senate Bills 147 and 630 by state Sen. José Rodríguez. The bills would add certain types of predatory criminals to categories of people whose penalties are enhanced for violating protective orders, and add to the period of time during which bond conditions in family violence and assault cases apply.

"SB 147 fixes loopholes under which people who violated protective orders in sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking cases received lesser penalties than those who violated the orders in family violence cases. The bill aligns the penalties," Rodríguez said. "SB 630 strengthens post-conviction and post-offender-release protections for victims of sexual assault and abuse, stalking, and human trafficking."

### **More details:**

- **SB 630:** During a criminal proceeding, courts typically place conditions on defendants' bond, rather than protective orders (POs), to ensure no contact between defendants and victims. However, because bond conditions do not apply after a criminal proceeding, these protections do not extend to a defendant's period of community supervision or at the time of release from prison. With passage of SB 630, a PO issued after conviction would cover victims after the prosecution and, under Section 85.025(c), Family Code, would extend at least one year after an offender's release. This strengthens post-conviction and post-offender-release protections for victims of sexual assault and abuse, stalking, and human trafficking.

- SB 147: Currently, two separate provisions of the Penal Code are used to prosecute violations of protective orders. Section 25.07 covers family violence protective orders, and Section 38.112 covers sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking protective orders. Section 25.07 provides more protections for victims and more severe penalties for violating a protective order. SB 147 deletes Section 38.112 and places defendants who have protective orders in sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking cases under the more strict Section 25.07. This strengthens protections for victims of sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking and provides more enforcement tools to prosecutors.

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*José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.*